Problems faced by Rural/Agricultural and unorganised workers

2099. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by Government on the problems faced by rural/agricultural and unorganised sector workers;

(b) if so, the details of major problems faced by such workers;

(c) whether Government propose to extend labour laws to cover such workers;

(d) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(e) what other measures Government propose to take to safeguard interests of such workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Government have been conducting Rural Labour Enquiries at regular intervals on a quinquennial basis alongwith General Employment and Unemployment Surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation. The major problems faced by workers in rural/agricultural and unorganised sector are non-payment of minimum wages, continuous employment for whole year and poor working conditions etc.

The Government have enacted a number of labour laws for protection of workers' rights and their welfare; both for organised and unorganised workers. Some of these laws are, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in these unorganised/informal sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

As regards fresh policy initiatives, the Central Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interest of workers engaged in construction industry which constitutes the second largest single activity, after agriculture, employing unorganised workers. It is also the endeavour of the Government to augment the existing measures and to provide welfare measures and to extend legislative protection to more and more workers in the unorganised sector.

Recommendations of SLC

2100. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major recommendations of the Standing Labour Committee at its 35th session held in New Delhi recently;

(b) whether SLC has expressed concern at the lack of action on the proposed amendments to the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985; and

(c) what is the Government's stand on SLG's recomendations and the pending amendments to the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The 35th Session of the Standing Labour Committee discussed various issues and

among others, recommended certain measures to be taken to increase the avenues of employment in the formal and organised sector as also in the small scale and medium size enterprises. It stressed the need to provide social security and labour protection to agricultural workers and to protect jobs in Indian Industry. It was also decided that the next session of the Indian Labour Conference should be convened in April, 1999 with the following items in the agenda:

—measures to reduce industrial sickness and to increase production and productivity.

—*measures to increase employment* opportunities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Labour is in agreement with the recommendation of Standing Labour Committee and has requested the Ministry of Finance for necessary action in this regard.

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि अंशदानों को जमा न कराया जाना

2101. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में स्टील रौलरोलिंग मिलों में कार्यरत कितने श्रमिक और कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि योजना के सदस्य हैं;

(ख) उनके खातों में समय पर अंशदान राशि जमा न करने वाले मिल मालिकों के नाम क्या हैं;

(ग) उनसे कितनी राशि वसूल की जानी शेष है; और

(घ) इन मिल मालिकों के विरुद्ध की गई कार्रवाई का क्या ब्यौरा है?

श्रम मंत्री (डा० सत्यनारायण जाटिया): (क) 3995

(ख) से (घ) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार मैसर्स कानपुर स्टील एण्ड इंजीनियरिंग वर्क्स, भिलाई के श्री विनोद कुमार पंजाबी, मैसर्स शिव शक्ति री-रोलिंग मिल्स, रायपुर के श्री एल०पी० यादव और अन्यों तथा मै० हीरा स्टील मिल्स, रायपुर के श्री एच०पी० अग्रवाल ने कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि देयों की समय पर अदायगी में चूक की है। तदनुसार, कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि एवं प्रकीर्ण उपबंध अधिनियम की धारा 7-क के अंतर्गत दी गयी व्यवस्था के अनुसार कानूनी कार्यवाहियां प्रारम्भ की गयी थीं और मैसर्स हीरा स्टील्स मिल्स, रायपुर के अलावा अन्यों से भविष्य निधि देयों की वसूली कर ली गयी है। मध्य प्रदेश के उच्च न्यायालय ने मैसर्स हीरा स्टील मिल्स पर बकाया देयों के निर्धारण की प्रक्रिया पर रोक लगा दी है।

Eradication of Unemployment

2102. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agenda for Governance proposes to eradicate unemployment;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in this direction so far; and

(c) the employment opportunities created during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The National Agenda for Governance (NAG) stresses the need to reappraise and revitalise reforms through giving primacy to removal of unemployment and give to the entire development efforts a humane face with total eradication of proverty and removal of unemployment.

Under the direction from the Prime Minister, Five Special Action Plans (SAP) were formulated. These Plans pertain to:

(i) Doubling food production and making India hunger free in 10 years.

(ii) Expansion and improvement of social infrastructure—drinking water, housing, education, health care and sanitation—provision of drinking water to every settlement in the country within 5 years.